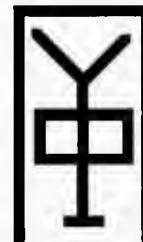


OLD ARABIC SAYINGS,
SIMILES, AND METAPHORS

من أقوال العرب وتشبيهاتهم الأدبية

Translated from the Arabic by

SAAD ELKHADEM



YORK PRESS LTD.

ARABIC LITERATURE AND SCHOLARSHIP

An Unnumbered Series from York Press

<i>Modern Egyptian Short Stories</i>	\$5.50
<i>Three Contemporary Egyptian Novels</i>	\$15.50
<i>History of the Egyptian Novel: Its Rise and Early Beginnings</i>	\$12.95
<i>Three Pioneering Egyptian Novels</i>	\$12.95
<i>Egyptian Proverbs and Popular Sayings</i>	\$6.95
<i>Avant-Garde Egyptian Fiction: The Ulysses Trilogy</i>	\$6.95
<i>Thulāthiyat 'Ulis</i> (the unabridged Arabic text of <i>The Ulysses Trilogy</i>)	\$6.95
<i>A Leader of Men / Abū al-Rijāl</i> (bilingual ed.: English / Arabic)	\$6.95
<i>The Plague / al-Tā'ān</i> (bilingual ed.: English / Arabic)	\$6.95
<i>Arab-Canadian Writing: Stories, Memoirs, and Reminiscences</i>	\$6.95
<i>Canadian Adventures of the Flying Egyptian = Mughamarat al-Misri al-Ta'ir fi Kanada</i> (bil. ed.)	\$9.95
<i>Old Arabic Sayings, Similes, and Metaphors = Min Aqūl al-'Arab wa Tashbihātihim al-Adabīyah</i>	\$6.95

Canadian Cataloguing in Publication Data

Main entry under title

Old Arabic sayings, similes, and metaphors = *Min Aqūl al-'Arab wa Tashbihātihim al-Adabīyah*
(Arabic literature and scholarship)

Text in English and Arabic
ISBN 0-919966-81-0

1. Proverbs, Arabic. 2. Arabic language -- Figures of speech.

I. Elkhadem, Saad. II. Title: *Min Aqūl al-'Arab wa Tashbihātihim al-Adabīyah*. III. Series.

PN6519. A7053 1991 398.9'927 C91-097505-1

Typesetting and cover: YORKTYPE

=====

Copyright © 1991, YORK PRESS LTD.
P.O. Box 1172
Fredericton, N.B. E3B 5C8, Canada

PREFACE

Translating literary texts is not only an exacting task, but also a risky and thankless one. No matter how faithful a rendition a translator tries to create, he, or she, may be forced to make certain concessions in matters of phraseology, syntax, rhythm, or poetic diction, which, if not meticulously checked, may change the inherent meaning of the text significantly. Of all the literary genres, lyrical poetry (on account of its intricate rhythmical patterns and innumerable connotative implications) and epigrammatic statements (often due to their cryptic brevity and conflicting cultural associations) are undoubtedly the most demanding ones to translate. I have, therefore, paid particular attention to the different intrinsic and extrinsic features of these short texts, for they combine several lyrical qualities as well as many aphoristic elements.

However, in dealing with some ambiguous sayings and abstruse proverbs, I have permitted myself to make changes which seemed unavoidable in order to clarify the meaning of the text, or to increase its readability. Of course I am aware that during this purely subjective process I ran the risk of doing too much or too little. However, I also know that no reader who is in good command of both languages would be totally satisfied with this or with any other translation, and that he, or she, would always feel capable of producing another translation that would correspond more closely to his or her own understanding of the original text. Some, I am sure, would be encouraged--when they see how the two texts, the Arabic and the English, face one another on the same page, and even on the same line--to compare, to criticize, and to modify what is in front of them. All of this is welcome, of course, because I have made this effort in the sincere hope that English-speaking readers (Arabs and non-Arabs) may be able to enjoy and to reflect upon some of the sagacious statements, profound thoughts, and witty observations made by the Arabs over the years and passed down from generation to generation.¹

S.E.

¹ I am indebted to several encyclopedias and anthologies; I am particularly grateful to *al-Munjid* (Beirut: Catholic Press, 1956), for its rich and accurate collection of Arabic proverbs.

١. أَتْرُكُ الشَّرَّ يَتَرُكُكَ.
٢. الْأَعْمَالُ بِخَوَاتِهَا.
٣. سِبْقُ السَّيْفِ الْعَدْلَ.
٤. سَكَّتَ الْفَأْوَنْطَقُ خَلْفَهَا.
٥. لِكُلِّ قَدِيمٍ حُرْمَةً.
٦. وَكُلِّ غَرِيبٍ لِلْغَرِيبِ نَسِيبٌ.
٧. مَنْ كَانَ لَكَ كُلَّهُ كَانَ عَلَيْكَ كُلَّهُ.
٨. أَفَةُ الْمَرْوِةِ خَلْفُ الْوَعْدِ.
٩. لَا يَنْفَعُ حَذَرُ مِنْ قَدَرٍ.
إِنَّ الْحَذَرَ لَا يَدْفَعُ الْمَقْدُورَ.
١٠. عَلَى الْبَاغِيِّ تَدْوَرُ الدَّوَائِرُ.
١١. نَعَمُ الْجَدُودُ وَلَكِنْ بَئْسُ مَا خَلَفُوا.
١٢. أَوْلُ الْعَيْنِ الْاحْتِلَاطُ.
(الْعَيْنِ: الْعَجْزُ؛ الْاحْتِلَاطُ:
الْغَضْبُ)

1. Abandon evil and evil will abandon you.
2. Actions are judged by their results.
3. After the sword has been thrust, any blame becomes futile.
4. After utter silence, he uttered nonsense.
5. The aged are revered.
6. All foreigners are related to one another.
7. All the things that belong to us, are the things that trouble us.
8. All good intentions are forgotten, if one doesn't keep one's promise.
9. All precautions are in vain when man faces his destiny.
10. All transgressors must one day suffer adversities.
11. Although they had the best forefathers, they left behind the worst offspring.
12. Anger is the first sign of helplessness.

- Annihilation or Domination!
- [His anger was as ineffective] as a horse's anger towards its bridle.
- [They scattered in all directions] as if a skunk had sprayed them with its offensive odor.
- [They sat so still] as if birds had nested upon their heads.
- Averting evil is better than any worldly gain.
- Avoiding evil is a good deed in itself.

- إِمَّا هُلْكٌ وَإِمَّا مُلْكٌ.
- غَضَبَ الْخَيْلُ عَلَى الْلَّجْمِ.
- فَسَأَ بَيْنَهُمُ الظَّرِبَانُ.
- كَانَ عَلَى رُؤُسِهِمُ الطَّيْرُ.
- دَرَءُ الْمَنَاسِدِ أَوْلَى مِنْ جَلْبِ النِّعَمِ.
- مِنْ ابْتِغَاءِ الْخَيْرِ اتِّقَاءُ الشَّرِّ.

B

- Barer than the palm of your hand.
- Be hard as bones, and dogs will chew you.
- Because life is just like this, it has to be endured without a complaint.
- Because the dates are so tasty, one doesn't want to spit the stones.
- Before proposing to the prettiest girl, make sure you can afford her dowry.

- أَنْقَى مِنِ الْرَّاحَةِ.
- مَنْ جَعَلَ نَفْسَهُ عَظِيمًا أَكْلَتْهُ الْكَلَابُ.
- مَا الدَّهْرُ إِلَّا هَكَذَا فَاصْبِرْ لِهِ.
- مِنْ شَهْوَةِ التَّمْرِ يُمْسِي النَّوْيِ.
- مِنْ خَطْبَ الْحَسَنَاءِ يُعْطِي مَهَرَهَا.

- Befriend the good and flatter the bad.
- A bereaved mother loves the company of bereaved mothers.
- The best admonition is the one that deters.
- The best course is the middle course.
- The best knowledge is the kind that comes to your aid.
- [Don't squeeze yourself] between a tree and its own bark.
- Beware of those whom you once had helped.
- Birds of a feather will flock together.
- [It'll be too late, when] the blade hits the bone.
- Blessed by luck, but doomed by stupidity.
- Blind is the man who is in dire need.
- Bolder than a lion.
- A brief talk is the best talk.
- Buffoonery eradicates dignity.
- آخر الأ��اء وداهن الأعداء.
- الشکلی تحب الشکلی.
- خير الوعظ ما ردع.
- خير الأمور أوساطها.
- خير العلم ما حضرك.
- بين العصا ولحاتها.
- اتقى شرّ من أحسنت اليه.
- إن الطيور على أشكالها تقع.
- بلغ السكين العزم.
- حَفَّ فِي السَّحَابِ وَعَقَلَ فِي التَّرَابِ.
- صاحب الحاجة أعمى.
- أَجْرًا مِنْ أَسَامَةَ.
- أَجْرًا مِنْ ذِي لَبْدَةِ.
- (أسامة: الأسد؛ ذو البدة: الأسد)
- خير الكلام ما قلّ ودلّ.
- المزاحة تذهب المهابة.

20. [Like someone who] builds a house and destroys a city.

٢٠. يَبْنِي قَصْرًا وَيَهْدِمُ مِصْرًا.

21. A bull uses his horns to protect his nose.

٢١. الشَّوَّرُ يَحْمِي أَنْفَهُ بِرَوْقِهِ.
(الروق: القرن)

C

1. Can a falcon ever fly without wings?

١. هَلْ يَنْهَضُ الْبَازِي بِلَا جَنَاحًا!
(الباز، البازِي: الصقر)

2. Can a wolf ever turn into a ewe?

٢. ذَبَبُ اسْتَنْعَجَ.

3. Can the moon be overlooked?

٢. وَهَلْ يُخْفَى عَلَى النَّاسِ الْقَمَرُ!

4. Can the shadow be straight when the rod is crooked?

٤. هَلْ يَسْتَقِيمُ الظُّلُمُ وَالْعَوْدُ
أَعْوَجُ.

5. Cheaper than the dates of Basra.

٥. أَرْخَصُ مِنَ التَّمْرِ بِالْبَصَرَةِ.

6. Choose a wise man to be your emissary, and don't give him any instructions.

٦. أَرْسِلْ حَكِيمًا وَلَا تُوْصِي.

7. Clearer than a rooster's eye.

٧. أَصْفَى مِنْ عَيْنِ الدِّيكِ.

8. Clearer than honey.

٨. أَصْفَى مِنْ جَنَى النَّحْلِ.

9. Clearer than a teardrop.

٩. أَصْفَى مِنْ الدَّمْعَةِ.
أَنْقَى مِنْ الدَّمْعَةِ.

10. Closer to a man than his own shadow.

١٠. الْأَزْمُ لِلْمَرءِ مِنْ ظَلِّهِ.

11. Complaining is a weak man's only weapon.

12. Contentment is better than all the riches of the world.

13. [Someone is] covered with more clothes than an onion.

14. [Someone is like] a cow that is butting its kindest milker.

15. Cowardice begets neither gain nor loss.

D

1. Daylight makes all candles superfluous.

2. [Like someone who is trying to] daub the sun with mud.

3. Deeds testify better than any witness.

4. The deluge is about to cover all mountaintops.

5. [The difference between the two of them is like] the difference between a date and a lump of burning coal.

١١. سِلَاحُ الْعَسْفَاءِ الشَّكَايَةِ.

١٢. خَيْرُ الْغِنَى الْقُنْوَعُ.

١٢. أَكْسَى مِنْ بَصْلَةٍ.

١٤. خَيْرُ حَالِبِيكَ تَنْطَحِبِنَا.

١٥. شَرَهُ الْجُبَنِ لَا رِيحَ وَلَا خُسْرُ.

١. أَغْنَى الصَّبَاحُ عَنِ الْمَصَبَاحِ.

٢. يُطَيِّبُ عَيْنَ الشَّمْسِ.

٢. شَهَادَاتُ الْفَعَالِ خَيْرٌ مِنْ شَهَادَاتِ الرِّجَالِ.

٤. بَلَغَ السَّيْلُ الرُّبَّيِّ.
(الرُّبَّيِّ جَمْ زُبْيَةً: مَكَانٌ عَالٌ لَا يَصْلُ إِلَيْهِ الْمَاءُ)

٥. كَالْفَرْقُ بَيْنَ التَّمْرَةِ وَالْجَمْرَةِ.

6. [Like someone who keeps] dipping his brush in an empty can of paint.

7. Discreeter than a chameleon.

8. Disobey your own self, and you will be doing the right thing.

9. Distrusting people is sheer prudence.

10. A dog remains a dog even if it wears a golden collar.

11. A dog's barking never reaches the clouds.

12. Don't be soft or you'll be squeezed, and don't be hard or you'll be broken.

13. Don't be too sweet or you'll be swallowed, and don't be too bitter or you'll be tossed off.

14. Don't censure a certain behavior, only to embrace it afterwards.

15. Don't dive if you can't swim.

16. Don't lose the hens to save the eggs.

17. Don't squeeze yourself between the layers of an onion.

٦. يَدْهُنُ مِنْ قَارُورٍ فَارِغٍ.

٧. أَحْزَمْ مِنْ الْحِرْباءِ.

٨. خَالِفْ نَفْسَكَ تَسْتَرِحْ.
خَالِفْ هُوَكَ تَرْشِدْ.

٩. الْحَزْمُ سُوءُ الظَّنِّ بِالنَّاسِ.

١٠. الْكَلْبُ كَلْبٌ وَلَوْ طَوْقَتْهُ
ذَهَبًا.

١١. تَبْحُرُ الْكَلَابُ لَا يَضُرُّ
بِالسَّحَابِ.

١٢. لَا تَكُنْ رَطْبًا فَتُعْصَرَ وَلَا
يَابِسًا فَتُكْسَرَ.

١٢. لَا تَكُنْ حُلُوًا فَتُسْتَرَطَ وَلَا
مُرَّا فَتُعْنَىِ.
(يُسْتَرَطُ: يَبْتَلِعُ؛ يَعْنَى
الشَّيْءُ: يَلْفَظُهُ)

١٤. لَا تَنْهَى عَنْ خَلْقٍ وَتَأْتِي مِثْلَهُ.

١٥. لَا تَقْعُنَ الْبَحْرَ إِلَّا سَابِحًا.

١٦. لَا تُحْيِي الْبَيْضَ وَتَقْتُلُ
الْفَرَاخَ.

١٧. لَا تَدْخُلْ بَيْنَ الْبَصْلَةِ
وَقَشْرَهَا.

18. Don't take a poison only because you have its antidote.

19. [Someone] drifts with every wind.

E

1. Each head has its own ache.

2. [Someone] eats more than a whale.

3. [Someone] eats more than a wood worm.

4. Enmity, hatred, and sickness never arrive in small shares.

5. An envious man will be smitten for his grudge.

6. [Like someone who] escapes the heat by jumping into the fire.

7. Even a little evil is too much evil.

8. Even an unskilled archer may sometimes hit the target.

١٨. لَا تَشْرُبِ السَّمَّ اتَّكَالًا عَلَى
الْتَّرِيَاقِ.

١٩. يَهْبُطُ مَعَ كُلِّ رِيحٍ.

١. كُلْ رَأْسِهِ بِصُدَاعٍ.

٢. أَكَلَ مِنْ حُوتٍ.

٢. أَكَلَ مِنْ السُّوْسِ.

٤. لَا قَلِيلُ فِي الْعِدَاوَةِ وَالْإِحْنَاءِ
وَالْمَرْضِ.
(الإِحْنَاءُ: الْحَدْدُ)

٥. وَيْلٌ لِلْحَسُودِ مِنْ حَسَدِهِ.

٦. كَالْمُسْتَجِيرِ مِنِ الرَّمْضَاءِ
بِالنَّارِ.
(الرَّمْضَاءُ: شَدَّةُ الْحَرَّ)

٧. الشَّرُّ قَلِيلٌ كَثِيرٌ.

٨. رُبَّ رَمِيَّةٍ مِنْ غَيْرِ رَأْمٍ.

9. Even a she-camel is sometimes kind to her suckling.

٩. لا يُعدم الحُوارُ من أمهٍ حنّةً.
(الحُوار : رضيع الناقة)

10. Even if I tried to feed him honey, he'd always try to bite my fingers.

١٠. لو ألمته عسلاً لعضَّ
أصبعي.

11. Even the cow that doesn't like to be milked, will have to fill its pail.

١١. الضَّجُورُ تحلُّبُ الْعُلْبَةِ.

12. Every chick was once an egg.

١٢. كلّ قائبٍ من قُوبَةٍ.
(القائبة : الفرخ أو البيضة؛
القوب : الفرخ أو البيضة)

13. Every dress fits someone.

١٢. لكلّ ثوبٍ لابسٍ.

14. Every dog barks loudly, when it stands beside its home.

١٤. كُلُّ كَلْبٍ بَبَابِهِ نَبَاجُ.

15. Every era has its men.

١٥. لكلّ دهْرٍ رجالٌ.
لكلّ زمانٍ رجالٌ.

16. Every girl admires her father.

١٦. كُلُّ فَتَاهٍ بِأَبِيهَا مُعْجِبَةٌ.

17. Every distress ends in relief.

١٧. كُلُّ هَمٍ إِلَى فَرْجٍ.
إِنَّ بَعْدَ الْعُسْرِ يَسْرًا.

18. Every man has his share of grief.

١٨. كُلُّ إِنْسَانٍ وَهُنْ.

19. Every man is formed by his days.

١٩. الْإِنْسَانُ ابْنُ يَوْمَهُ.

20. Every man reflects his clan.

٢٠. الْمَرْءُ مَرْأَةُ أَخِيهِ.

21. Every new day brings along its own sustenance.

٢١. لِكُلِّ غَدٍ طَعَامٌ.

22. Every learned man will once err.

٢٢. لِكُلِّ عَالَمٍ هَفْوَةٌ.

23. Every pasture was grazed once.

٢٢. بِكُلِّ عُشَبٍ آثارٌ رَّعَى.

24. Every plant has its sap.

٢٤. لِكُلِّ عُودٍ عُصَارَةٌ.

25. Every pot oozes what it has inside.

٢٥. وَكُلُّ آنَاءٍ بِالذِّي فِيهِ يَنْضَحُ.

26. Every runaway camel will eventually return to its hitching place.

٢٦. عُودِي إِلَى مَبَارِكَكَ.

27. Every sun will have to set.

٢٧. لِكُلِّ شَمْسٍ مَغْرِبٌ.

28. Everything folded will one day be unfolded.

٢٨. لِكُلِّ طَيِّبٍ نَشَرٌ.

29. Every thoroughbred may once trip, and every learned man may once err.

٢٩. لِكُلِّ جَوَادٍ كَبُوَةٍ وَلِكُلِّ عَالَمٍ
هَفْوَةٌ.

30. Every torrential rain starts with a trickle.

٢٠. أَوَّلُ الْغَيْثَ قَطْرٌ ثُمَّ يَنْهَرُ.

31. Every tree was once a pit.

٢١. أَوَّلُ الشَّجَرَةِ النَّوَافِذُ.
النَّوَى أَوَّلُ الشَّجَرَةِ.

32. Every war has its ups and downs.

٢٢. الْحَرْبُ سِجَالٌ.
(سِجَالٌ : مَسَاجِلَةٌ)

33. Excessiveness is never good; even good deeds shouldn't be excessive.

٢٢. لَا خَيْرٌ فِي السَّرَّافَ وَلَا سَرَفٌ فِي الْخَيْرِ.

34. Excuses and lies are one and the same.

٢٤. المعاذرُ مكاذبٌ.

35. Excuses will be accepted by noble-minded people.

٢٥. والعذرُ عند كرام الناس
مقبول.

36. Eyes reveal the truth better than words.

٢٦. اللحظة أصدق إِنْبَاءً من
اللَّفْظ.

F

1. Fairer than a weight scale.

١. أَعْدَلُ من مِيزَانٍ.

2. Falsehood has a short lifetime, but truth will endure until the end of time.

٢. جَوَّةُ الْبَاطِلِ سَاعَةٌ وَجَوَّةُ
الْحَقِّ إِلَى قِيَامِ السَّاعَةِ.

3. Farther back than yesterday.

٣. أَفْوَتُ من أَمْسٍ.

4. Feather your arrow before you shoot it.

٤. قَبْلَ الرَّمْيِ يُرَاشِ السَّهْمِ.

5. First attacks are usually awkward.

٥. أَوْلَى الْغَزْوِ أَخْرَقِ.

6. First the companion, then the road.

٦. الرَّفِيقُ قَبْلُ الطَّرِيقِ.

7. First the neighbor, then the home.

٧. الْجَارُ ثُمَّ الدَّارُ.

8. First you scold, then you punish.

٨. الْعَتَابُ قَبْلُ الْعَقَابِ.

٩. حَسْنٌ فِي كُلِّ عَيْنٍ مَا تَوَدَّ.

١٠. الشَّاةُ الْمَذْبُوْحَةُ لَا يَؤْلِمُهَا
السُّلْخُ.

١١. الْذِيَّانُ يَعْرُفُ وِجْهَ الْلَّبَانِ.

١٢. أَتَبْعَ مِنَ الظِّلِّ.

١٣. إِسْتِرَاحَ مِنْ لَا عَقْلَ لَهُ.

١٤. أَحَبُّ شَيْءٍ إِلَى الْإِنْسَانِ مَا
مُنْعَاهُ.

١٥. لَكُلَّ حَسَنَ عَائِبٌ.

١٦. لَا تُعْدُمُ الْحَسَنَاءُ ذَاماً.

١٧. لَكُلَّ زَعْمَ خَصْمٌ.

١٨. لَكُلَّ مَقَامٍ مَقَالٌ.

١٩. أَفَةُ الْعِلْمِ النِّسِيَانُ.

٢٠. خَيْرُ الْعَفْوِ مَا كَانَ عِنْدَ
الْمُقْدَرَةِ.

٢١. لِأَمْرٍ مَا يَسُودُ مِنْ يَسُودِ.

9. Flawless are the things we desire.

10. Flaying doesn't hurt the slaughtered lamb.

11. Flies recognize the milkman.

12. [Someone, or something,] follows him closer than his own shadow.

13. Fools have it easy in every respect.

14. Forbidden things are what we covet.

15. For every beautiful thing there is a faultfinder.

16. For every beautiful woman there is a detractor.

17. For every claimant there is a contestant.

18. For every occasion there is a fitting word.

19. Forgetfulness is a disease that afflicts knowledgeable people.

20. Forgiveness is at its best, when one is mighty.

21. For one reason or another, masters become masters.

22. For those who see with their own eyes, proofs are never needed.

23. [Don't wait until tomorrow,] for tomorrow may belong to someone else.

24. For waging wars, God has created a special breed of men.

25. Frailer than a spiderweb.

26. A free man always keeps his promise.

27. A free man's chest is the tomb of his secrets.

28. [Someone] fumbles like a half-blind camel.

٢٢. العِيَان لا يَحْتَاجُ إِلَى الْبَيَانِ.

٢٢. عَسَى غَدًّا لِغَيْرِكَ.

٢٤. خَلَقَ اللَّهُ لِلْحَرْبِ رِجَالًا.

٢٥. أَوْهَنُ مِنْ بَيْتِ الْعَنْكَبُوتِ.

٢٦. أَنْجَزَ حَرًّا مَا وَعَدَ.

٢٧. صُدُورُ الْأَحْرَارِ قُبُورُ
الْأَسْرَارِ.

٢٨. يُخْبِطُ خَبْطُ عَشَوَاءِ.
(الْعَشَوَاءُ [مَؤْنَثُ الْأَعْشَى]:
النَّاقَةُ الَّتِي لَا تَبْصُرُ جَيْدًا)

G

1. Generosity will be discredited if it is given in excess.

2. God's hand is above all hands.

3. Good deeds enslave people.

4. Good deeds end all kinds of malice.

١. آفَةُ الْجُودِ الْإِسْرَافُ.

٢. وَمَا مِنْ يَدٍ إِلَّا يَدُ اللَّهِ فَوْقَهَا.

٢. النَّاسُ عَبِيدُ الْإِحْسَانِ.

٤. الْإِحْسَانُ يَقْطَعُ الْلِسَانَ.

5. Good deeds will prevail, even after a long time.

6. A good man's joy is written on his face, but his grief is hidden deep in his heart.

7. Gentle words capture hearts.

8. Give bad things a chance to miss you.

9. The truth lies under the bubbles.

10. Give him first your best dates, then if needed, what he hates.

11. Good deeds make a man happy in both worlds.

12. The graying of a man's hair is the first announcement of his impending death.

13. Greed leads to privation.

14. Greedier than an ant.

15. A greedy man doesn't get more than his allotted share.

16. A grudge is not needed when you have power.

٥. الْخَيْرُ أَبْقَى وَإِنْ طَالَ الزَّمَانُ بِهِ.

٦. الْمُؤْمِنُ بِشَرَهٌ فِي وِجْهِهِ وَحَزَنٌ
فِي قَلْبِهِ.

٧. لِينُ الْكَلَامِ قِيدُ الْقُلُوبِ.

٨. دَعُ الْعُورَاءِ تَخْطَأُكَ.
(يُقَالُ أَنَّ هَذَا هُوَ أَحْكَمُ مِثْلِ
ضَرْبَتِ الْعَرَبِ !)

٩. الْصَّرِيقُ تَحْتَ الرَّغْوَةِ.

١٠. أَعْطِ أَخَاكَ تِمْرَةً فَلَمْ أَبِي
فِجْمَرَةً.

١١. خَيْرُ الْأَمْوَارِ مَا أَسْعَدَكَ فِي
دَارِيْكَ.

١٢. شَبِيكُ نَاعِيكَ.

١٢. الْحِرْصُ قَانِدُ الْحِرْمَانِ.

١٤. أَحْرَصَ مِنْ نَمْلَةً.

١٥. لَيْسَ الْحَرِيصُ بِزَائِدٍ فِي
رَزْقِهِ.

١٦. لَمَّا الْمَدْرَةُ تُذَهِّبُ الْحَفِيْظَةَ.

1. A habitual liar should have a good memory.
2. Happy are those who share the happiness of others.
3. Hardships will never dishearten a man of courage.
4. Hard work may exhaust a man, but idleness for sure will ruin him.
5. Harder than a rock.
6. A harmless chat can sometimes lead to serious topics.
7. Harsher than fate.
8. Hearing is never the same as seeing.
9. Haughtier than a crow.
10. Haughtier than a lion's nose.
11. Haughtier than a mountain goat.
12. Haughtier than an eagle in the sky.

١. إن كنت كذوباً فكن ذكوراً.
٢. خير الناس من فرح للناس بالخير.
٣. الحُرُّ حُرٌّ وإن مَسَّهُ الضُّرُّ.
٤. إن يَكُن الشُّغْلُ مَجْهُدٌ فَلَمَّا
الفراغ مَفْسِدٌ.
٥. أقسى من صخر.
٦. الحديث ذو شُجُونٍ.
٧. أَجْفَى من الدهر.
٨. ليس الخبر كالمعاينة.
٩. أزهى من غراب.
١٠. أعز من أنف الأسد.
١١. أزهى من وعل.
١٢. أعز من عُقاب الجو.

13. Haughtier than a peacock.
14. Have mercy on those below you, and you'll have mercy from those above you.
15. [Someone is so helpless that] he can neither pull nor let go.
16. [Someone is so poor that] he doesn't even have a date pit to his name.
(الشَّرْوَى: الثَّلْل؛ النَّقِير: شَقْ فِي النَّوَافِذ تَبَتَّ مِنْهُ النَّخْلَة)
17. [Someone is so poor that] he has neither wine nor vinegar.
18. [Someone is so poor that] he owns neither a sheep nor a camel.
(الثَّاغِيَة: النَّعْجَة؛ الرَّاغِيَة: النَّاقَة)
19. [A shameless liar may even claim that] he had once captured a donkey that had a pair of horns.
20. He who asks for a faultless friend, is doomed to stay without a friend.
(مَنْ طَلَبَ أَخًا بِلَا عِيْبٍ بَقَى
بِلَا أخ.)
21. He who aspires higher than others, has more worries to contend with.
(مَنْ عَلَّتْ هَمَّتْهُ طَالَ هُمَّهُ.)
22. He who becomes a lamb, will be devoured by wolves.
(مَنْ صَارَ نَعْجَةً أَكَلَهُ الذِّئْبُ.)

23. He who blindly trusts the days, will always be betrayed.

٢٢. من أَمِنَ الزَّمَانَ خَانَهُ.

24. He who challenges his destiny, will be vanquished every time.

٢٤. من غَالَبَ الْأَيَّامَ غُلَبَ.
من سَابِقَ الدَّهْرِ عَشَرَ.

25. He who chooses the smooth road, will be safe of all pitfalls.

٢٥. من سَلَكَ الْجَدَّدَ أَمِنَ
الْعَثَارَ.
(الْجَدَّدُ: الْأَرْضُ الْمُسْتَوَيَّةُ)

26. He who conveys an insult to you, shares the blame for insulting you.

٢٦. سَبَّكَ مِنْ بَلَغَكَ السُّبُّ.

27. He who despises his money, dignifies himself.

٢٧. من أَهَانَ مَالَهُ أَكْرَمَ نَفْسَهُ.

28. He who fears no one, no one will ever fear.

٢٨. من لَا يَخَافُ أَحَدًا لَا يَخَافُ
أَحَدًا.

29. He who follows his desires, is choosing this world and not the next.

٢٩. من أَطَاعَ هُوَاهُ بَاعَ دِينَهُ
بِدُنْيَاهُ.

30. He who goes beyond his limit, will one day disgrace himself.

٣٠. من أَكْثَرَ أَهْجَرَ.
(الْهَاجَرَاتُ، الْأَهْجَرَاتُ:
الْفَضَائِحُ، الْفَحْشَى)

31. He who has the might, will always get the spoils.

٣١. من عَزَّ بَزَّ.
(عَزَّ: قَوِيٌّ، اشْتَدَّ، بَزَّ:
غَلْبَ، سَلْبَ)

32. He who helps you abuse others, is himself abusing you.

٣٢. من أَعَانَكَ عَلَى الشَّرِّ ظَلَمَكَ.

33. He who informs you about them, will soon inform them about you.

٣٤. He who is not a real wolf, will be devoured by other wolves.

٣٥. He who looks hard within himself, will undoubtedly find God.

٣٦. He who magnifies his own misfortunes, will be afflicted with greater ones.

٣٧. He who moves cautiously, will surely reach his goal.

٣٨. He who ponders all results, will avert all disasters.

٣٩. He who repents all his sins, is like a man without sins.

٤٠. He who says something nice, will always hear something nice.

٤١. He who serves others, others will always serve him.

٤٢. He who slights himself, will be slighted by everyone.

٤٣. He who tries hard, will ultimately find the right path.

٤٤. من نَقَلَ إِلَيْكَ فَقَدْ نَقَلَ
عَنْكَ.

٤٥. من لَمْ يَكُنْ ذِبَابًا أَكْلَتَ
الذَّبَابَ.

٤٦. من عَرَفَ نَفْسَهُ عَرَفَ رَبَّهُ.

٤٧. من عَظَمَ صِفَارَ الْمَصَابِ
ابْتِلَاهُ اللَّهُ بِكَبَارِهَا.

٤٨. من تَأَنَّى ادْرَكَ مَا تَمَنَّى.

٤٩. من نَظَرَ فِي الْعَوَاقِبِ سَلِيمٌ
مِنَ النَّوَائِبِ.

٥٠. التَّائِبُ مِنَ الذَّنْبِ كَمَنْ لَا
ذَنْبَ لَهُ.

٥١. مَنْ أَجْمَلَ قِيلَاءً سَمِعَ جَمِيلًاً.

٥٢. من خَدَمَ الرِّجَالَ خُدِمَ.

٥٣. من هَانَتْ عَلَيْهِ نَفْسُهُ فَهُوَ
عَلَى غَيْرِهِ أَهُونُ.

٥٤. مَنْ جَدَ وَجَدَ.

44. He who transgresses the truth, will find himself on a sinister path.

٤٤. من تعدى الحق ضاع مذهب.

45. He who trusts his fellowmen, will always have a peaceful life.

٤٥. من حَسُنَ ظنَّهُ طَابَ عِيشَهُ.

46. He who was once bitten by a snake, becomes cautious of every length of rope.

٤٦. من نهشَتْهُ الْحَيَّةُ حَذَّرَ الرُّسْنَ.
(الرُّسْن: الجبل)

47. He who wavers, will always fail.

٤٧. من هاب خاب.

48. He who wrestles with the truth, will ultimately be brought to the ground.

٤٨. من صارع الحق صرَعَهُ.

49. He who yields to his anger, is a man of bad manners.

٤٩. من أطاع غضبه أضاع أدبه.

50. [Someone is so deft that] he would easily lift the kohl from a woman's eyelids.

٥٠. يسرق الْكُحْلَ من العين.

51. [Someone is so stupid that] he wouldn't know the difference between his elbow and his foot.

٥١. لا يُعْرِفُ الْكُوْعَ من الْبُوْعِ.
(البُوْع: عَظَمٌ فِي مَشْطِ الْقَدْمِ)

52. His words are air in a cage.

٥٢. كلامه ريح في قفص.

53. An honorable man's word is a debt he must repay.

٥٣. وعدَ الْكَرِيمَ دِينَ.

54. Hope ends when life ends.

٥٤. لا تخرج النفس من الأمل حتى تدخل في الأجل.

55. Horses are the best judges of their riders.

56. Horses recognize their own riders.

57. Hotter than live coal.

58. An hour's pain is better than hours of pain.

59. How painful can an ant's bite be!

60. Hungrier than a wolf.

61. Hurricanes sweep away all kinds of windfall.

I

1. I am furious and you're in rage, how can we turn a new page!

2. I am not the first man to be deceived by a mirage.

٥٥. الخيلُ أعلمُ بفُرسانها.

٥٦. عَرَفَتِ الْخَيْلُ فُرْسَانَهَا.

٥٧. أحَرُّ من نارِ الغَصَّى.
(الغَصَّى: نوع من الخشب يبقى جمره زمناً طويلاً لا ينطفئ)

٥٨. وجُّ سَاعَةٍ وَلَا كُلُّ سَاعَةٍ.

٥٩. ما عَسَى إِنْ يَلْعَغَ عَضُّ النَّمَلِ.

٦٠. أَجَوَّعُ مِنْ ذَبَبٍ.

٦١. مَالٌ تَجْلِبُ الرِّيَاحَ تَأْخِذُ الزَّوَابِ.

١. أنا تَنِقُّ وَأَنْتَ مَنِقٌ فَكِيفَ تَنِقُّ.

(التنِق: المُتَلَقِّي غَضْبًا؛
المنِق: من يَكَادُ يَبْكِي مِنْ شَدَّةِ الغَيْظِ)

٢. لَسْتُ بَاوَلٌ مِنْ غَرَّةِ السَّرَابِ.

3. I bet if I traded in coffins, no one would ever die.

4. I'd rather be devoured by a lion than eaten by a dog.

5. I'd rather eat my own flesh before anyone else does.

6. I fed you my best broth, in anticipation of a day like this.

7. If a lion spares you, don't be tempted to hunt it down.

8. If God doesn't provide, all hard work remains useless.

9. If God has given you a ladle, then there is no need to burn your fingers.

10. [It wouldn't have been such a disgrace,] if I had been slapped by a real lady.

11. If it is your rip, patch it up.

12. If it weren't for concessions, there wouldn't be a human race.

13. If lying is a sickness, telling the truth is the only remedy.

14. [This will be possible only] if milk could be pushed back into the udder.

٢. لو اتّجرت بالاكفان ما مات أحد.

٤. يأكلني سبع ولا يأكلني كلب.

٥. أكل لحمي ولا أدعه لأكل.

٦. لثلث هذا كنت أحسيك الحسا.

٧. إن سلمت من الأسد فلا تطمع في صيده.

٨. رِزْقُ اللَّهِ لَا كُدُّكُ.

٩. إذا رزقك الله مغرفة فلا تحرق يدك.

١٠. لو ذات سوار لطمتنى.

١١. عندك وهي فارقعيه.
(الوهي: العيب، الشق)

١٢. لولا الوئام لهلك الأنام.

١٣. الكذب داء والصدق شفاء.

١٤. حتى يرجع الدَّرُّ في الضَّرع.
(الدر: اللبن)

١٥. لو كان في البومة خير ما تركها الصياد.

١٦. لو أنصف الناس استراح القاضي.

١٧. إختلط الحابل بالنابل.
(الحابل: من ينصب الجبال، الصائد، أو من يشد جبال القوس؛
النابل: صاحب النابل أو السهام، أو صانعها أو الرامي بها)

١٨. إذا كنت سنداناً فاصبر
وإذا كنت مطرقة فأوجع.

١٩. إن لم تُزاحم لم يقع في الخُرج شيء.

٢٠. ليس عليك نسجه فاسحب وجر.

٢١. إذا ضربت فأوجع وإذا زجرت فأسمع.

٢٢. إذا حككت قرحة أدميتها.

٢٢. إذا عَزَّ أخوك فَهُنَّ.

٢٤. الجهل شر الأصحاب.

١٥. If owls were good for something, hunters wouldn't have left them alone.

١٦. If people were fair, judges would have nothing to do.

١٧. If the bow maker and the arrow maker get entangled, no hunt will ever take place.

١٨. If you become an anvil, be patient; if you become a hammer, be painful.

١٩. If you don't push and shove, you'll end up holding an empty bag.

٢٠. If you haven't woven it yourself, then drag it and shove it as you please.

٢١. If you hit, make it painful, and if you scold, make it loud.

٢٢. If you scratch a wound, it will certainly bleed.

٢٣. If your brother pulls hard, then it is your turn to release.

٢٤. Ignorance is a man's worst companion.

25. I hear grinding but see no flour.

٢٥. [أَسْمَعَ] جَمْجَعَةً وَلَا أَرَى طَحْنًا.

26. It is always nice to be in charge, even if it is only of a pile of rocks.

٢٦. يَاحْذَا الْإِمَارَةِ وَلَوْ عَلَى الْحَجَارَةِ.

27. It is either your brother or the wolf.

٢٧. أَخْوَكَ أُمُّ الذَّئْبِ

28. It is not fair to ask the wolf to guard the sheep.

٢٨. مِنْ أَسْتَرْعَى الذَّئْبَ ظَلْمًا.

29. It is the worst of all deals when you lose the camel to save the fetters.

٢٩. بَئْسَ الْعِوضُ مِنْ جَمِيلٍ قِيَدَهُ.

J

1. Just listening to evil talk is evil enough.

١. حَسِبَكَ مِنْ شَرِّ سَمَاعَةٍ.

2. Just lower your head, and this too will pass.

٢. تَنَطِّأْ لَهَا تُخْطِئَكَ.

3. Just tell him these are red dates, and he will insist they are glowing embers.

٣. لَوْ قُلْتُ تَمَرَّةً لَقَالَ جَمَرَةً

K

1. Knowledge is afflicted by forgetfulness.

١. آفَةُ الْعِلْمِ النِّسَيَانُ.

2. Keep your dog hungry, and it will follow you everywhere.

٢. أَجِعْ كَلْبَكَ يَتَبَعَّكَ.

3. Kindness enslaves all free men.

٣. بِالْبَرِّ يُسْتَعْبَدُ الْحُرُّ.

L

1. A large spoon reaches the bottom of every pot.

١. تُخْرِجُ الْمِقدَحَةَ مَا فِي قَرْبَةٍ.

(المقدحة: المفرقة؛ البرمة: قدر مصنوع من حجر)

2. Learned men are God's custodians of humanity.

٢. الْعُلَمَاءُ أَمْنَاءُ اللَّهِ عَلَى خَلْقِهِ.

3. Less defined than a "thing."

٣. أَنْكَرَ مِنْ شَيْءٍ.

4. Less food means less illness.

٤. حَفَّ طَعَامَكَ تَأْمِنْ سَقَامَكَ.

5. Less reachable than an eagle in the sky.

٥. أَمْنَعُ مِنْ عَقَابِ الْجَوَّ.

6. Less reachable than a vulture's egg.

٦. أَبْعَدُ مِنْ بَيْضِ الْأَنْوَقِ.

أَعْزَّ مِنْ بَيْضِ الْأَنْوَقِ.

(الأنوق: العقاب، الرخمة)

7. Less reliable than the water of a creek. ٧. أَغْدَرُ مِنْ غَدَيرٍ.

8. Less useful than a lamp placed in the sunlight. ٨. أَضَيْعُ مِنْ سِرَاجٍ فِي شَمْسٍ.

9. Less useful than a sheath that has no blade. ٩. أَضَيْعُ مِنْ غَمِّيْلَهْ بِلَا نَصْلٍ.

10. Let us dismount, for we have reached greener pastures! ١٠. أَمْرَعْتَ فَانْزَلْ.

11. Lies undermine all communications. ١١. آفَةُ الْحَدِيثِ الْكَذَبُ.

12. [Someone] lies more than a captive. ١٢. أَكَذَبُ مِنَ الْأَخِيدِ.
(الْأَخِيدُ: الْأَسِيرُ)

13. Like a camel driver who has just lost his caravan. ١٣. كَالْحَادِي وَلَيْسَ لَهُ بَعِيرٌ.
(الْحَادِيُّ: سَائِقُ الْإِبْلِ)

14. Like a thunderbolt that brings no rain. ١٤. إِنَّمَا هُوَ كَبْرَقُ الْخَلْبِ.
(الْخَلْبُ: سَاحِبُ لَا مَطْرَ
فِيهِ)

15. Like a physician who is trying to heal others, while he himself is sick. ١٥. طَبِيبٌ يَدْاُوِي النَّاسَ وَهُوَ مَرِيضٌ.

16. Like a scorpion who challenges a snake to a fight. ١٦. تَحَكَّمَتْ الْعَرْبَ بِالْأَفْعَى.

17. Like a vicious circle that has no beginning and has no end. ١٧. كَالْحَلْقَةِ الْفَرَغَةِ لَا يُدْرِي أَيْنَ طَرْفَاهَا.

18. Like iron, a human heart also rusts. ١٨. تَصْدُأُ الْقُلُوبُ كَمَا يَصْدُأُ الْحَدِيدُ.

19. Like sheep on a green pasture that aren't allowed to graze. ١٩. كَالْمَرْبُوطِ وَالرَّعْيِ خَصِيبٌ.

20. Like someone running from the heat into the fire. ٢٠. كَالْمُسْتَغْيَثِ مِنَ الرَّمْضَاءِ
بِالنَّارِ.
(الرمضان: شدة الحر)

21. Like someone who roasted his meat, then dropped it into the fire. ٢١. أَنْجَحَ أَخْوَكَ ثُمَّ رَمَدَ.

22. Like swarms of locust that strip the land of all seeds and plants. ٢٢. كَالْجَرَادِ لَا يُبْقِي وَلَا يَذَرِ.

23. Like the Kaaba, people come to it, but it goes to no one. ٢٣. كَالْكَعْبَةِ تُزَارُ وَلَا تَزُورُ.

24. Like the ostrich, it is neither a bird nor a camel. ٢٤. مِثْلُ النَّعَامَةِ لَا طَيْرٌ وَلَا جَمْلٌ.

25. Like writing on water. ٢٥. كَالرَّاقِمِ عَلَى الْمَاءِ.

26. A listless person has no friends. ٢٦. لَيْسَ لِلْلَّوْلِ صَدِيقٌ.

27. Longer lasting than a message engraved in stone. ٢٧. أَبْقَى مِنْ وَحْيِ فِي حَجَرٍ.
(الْوَحْيُ: الرِّسَالَةُ، الْمَكْتُوبُ)

28. Longer lasting than eternity. ٢٨. أَبْقَى مِنَ الدَّهْرِ.

29. Longer than the month of Ramadan. ٢٩. أَطْوَلُ مِنْ شَهْرِ الصُّومِ.

30. Longer than the shadow of a lance. ٣٠. أَطْوَلُ مِنْ ظِلِّ الرَّمْحِ.

31. The longer you live, the more you see.

٢١. مهماً تعشُّنْ تَرَهُ.

32. Look after your friend even if you were engulfed by fire.

٢٢. حافظْ على الصديق ولو في الحريق.

33. [Someone] loses his way easier than a lizard does.

٢٣. أضل من ضب.
(الضب: حيوان من الزحافات، "السلحفاة")

34. Lost are those who are guided by blind people.

٢٤. قد ضلَّ من كانت العُمَيَانْ تهديه.

35. A lover's eye never sees the truth.

٢٥. عين الهوى لا تصدق.

36. A low land sucks its water and the water destined for other lands.

٢٦. الأرض الواطنة تشرب ماءَها وماءَ غيرها.

37. Lower your bucket in every well.

٢٧. ألق في الدلاء دلوك.
(دَلَّ ال долو: ارسل الدلو في البئر)

M

1. Madness takes many shapes and forms.

١. الجنون فنون.

2. Make sure your bed is snug and soft before you lie down.

٢. دَمِّتْ لجنبك قبل النوم
مُضطجعاً.

3. Man always covets what he doesn't possess.

٣. المرء تَوَاقُّ إلى ما لم يَتَّلَ.

4. A man always senses who is on his side.

٥. النَّفْسُ تَعْلَمُ مَنْ أَخْرَهَا
النَّافِعُ.

6. Man is enslaved by good deeds.

٧. A man is known by the friends he keeps.

٨. A man is sometimes blamed for what takes place in his neighbor's house.

٩. Mankind is the prey of fate.

١٠. A man shouldn't be blamed for evading his own destruction.

١١. A man stands where he puts himself.

١٢. A man's choice is an indication of his wisdom.

١٣. A man's companion is a reflected image of himself.

١٤. A man's appearance may be more telling than his words.

١٥. A man's erudition is in his heart, and not within the pages of his books.

٤. النَّفْسُ تَعْلَمُ مَنْ أَخْرَهَا
النَّافِعُ.

٥. سَيِّدُ الْقَوْمِ أَشْقَاهُمْ.

٦. الْإِنْسَانُ عَبْدُ الْإِحْسَانِ.

٧. المرء بخليله.

٨. قد يُؤْخَذُ الجارُ بذنب الجار.

٩. الأنام فرائسُ الْأَيَّامِ.

١٠. ليس يُلامَ هاربٌ من حتفه.

١١. المرء حيث يضع نفسه.

١٢. دَلَّ على عَاقِلٍ اخْتِيَارُهُ.

١٣. جَلِيسُ المرء مثله.

١٤. رَبُّ حَالٍ أَفْصَحُ مِنْ لِسَانٍ.

١٥. العلم في الصدور لا في السطور.

16. A man's good manners are better than all his riches.

١٦. أَدْبُ الرَّءُوْسِ خَيْرٌ مِّنْ ذَهَبٍ.

17. A man's injustice is what causes his downfall.

١٧. ظُلْمُ الرَّءُوْسِ يَصْرُعُهُ.

18. A man's inner wealth is better than any other wealth.

١٨. غَنَّى النَّفْسُ أَنْفَلُ مِنْ غَنَّى الْمَالِ.

19. A man's livelihood depends on good planning.

١٩. التَّدْبِيرُ نَصْفُ الْمَيْسِرِ.

20. A man's might is measured by the degree of his independence.

٢٠. عِزُّ الرَّجُلِ اسْتَغْنَاؤهُ عَنِ النَّاسِ.

21. A man is most vulnerable between his jaws.

٢١. مَقْتُلُ الرَّجُلِ بَيْنَ فَكَيْهِ.

22. A man's true nature will always prevail.

٢٢. الطَّبِيعُ أَغْلَبُ.

23. A man's wisdom is reflected in what he does, and his knowledge, in what he says.

٢٣. دَلِيلُ عِقْلِ الرَّءُوْسِ فَعْلَهُ وَدَلِيلُ عِلْمِ قَوْلَهُ.

24. Many arrows may miss, but eventually one will hit the mark.

٢٤. مَعَ الْخَوَاطِئِ سَهُمٌ صَابِبٌ.

25. Meager but yours, is better than plump but theirs.

٢٥. غَنِّكَ خَيْرٌ مِّنْ سَمِينٍ غَيْرِكَ.

26. Milk the cow only if you'll get your share.

٢٦. احْلُبْ حَلَبًا لَكَ شَطَرَهُ.

27. Merry days are short days.

٢٧. يَوْمُ السُّرُورِ قَصِيرٌ.

28. Misfortunes of some, are blessings for others.

٢٨. مَحَاجَبُ قَوْمٍ عِنْدَ قَوْمٍ فَرَائِدُ.

29. Modesty is the crown of all knightly virtues.

٢٩. تَاجُ الْمُرْوَةِ التَّواصِعُ.

30. Money is the most effective emissary.

٣٠. لَا رَسُولَ كَالْدَرْهَمِ.

31. Money salves every wound.

٣١. الدَّرَاهِمُ مَرَاهِمُ.

32. More acquisitive than an ant.

٣٢. أَجْمَعُ مِنْ نَمْلَةِ.

33. More adrift than the people of Moses.

٣٣. أَتَيَّهُ مِنْ قَوْمِ مُوسَىٰ.

34. More aggressive than a scorpion.

٣٤. أَعْدَى مِنْ الْعَرَبِ.

35. More arrogant than a crow.

٣٥. أَخْيَلُ مِنْ غُرَابِ.

36. More arrogant than a rooster.

٣٦. أَخْيَلُ مِنْ دِيكِ.

37. More barren than solid rock.

٣٧. أَجْرَدُ مِنْ صَخْرَةِ.

38. More brutish than torrential rain.

٣٨. أَغْشَمُ مِنْ السَّيْلِ.

39. More cautious than a crow.

٣٩. أَحْذَرُ مِنْ غُرَابِ.

40. More cautious than a wolf.

٤٠. أَحْذَرُ مِنْ ذَئْبِ.

41. More confused than a lizard.

٤١. أَحْيَرُ مِنْ ضَبَّ.

(الضَّبُّ: حَيْوَانٌ مِنَ الْزَّحَافَاتِ، "السَّلْحُلَيَّةُ")

42. More contagious than scabies.	٤٢. أعدى من الجرب.	٥٨. أفسدٌ من الجراد.
43. More courageous than a lion.	٤٣. أشجع من ليث.	٥٩. أذلٌ من وَدَ.
44. More cowardly than an ostrich.	٤٤. أجبن من نَعَامَةٍ.	٦٠. أذلٌ من الْبِساطِ.
45. More cunning than a fox.	٤٥. أروغٌ من ثعلبٍ.	٦١. أذلٌ من النعل.
46. More daring than a fly.	٤٦. أجرأ من ذُبابٍ.	٦٢. أحكى من قرد.
47. More deceptive than a mirage.	٤٧. أغْرِيَ من سَرَابٍ.	٦٣. أمضى من السيف.
48. More deceptive than a wolf.	٤٨. أخْتَلَ من الذئب.	٦٤. أمضى من الأجل.
49. More deluding than our ambitions.	٤٩. أغْرِيَ من الْأَمَانِيِّ.	٦٥. أصنعُ من النحل.
50. More desperate than a drowning man.	٥٠. أَيَّاسٌ من غَرِيقٍ.	٦٦. أصنعُ من دود القَزِّ.
51. More diligent than ants.	٥١. أَكْسَبٌ من نَمَلٍ.	٦٧. أَعْقَدُ من ذَنَبِ الضَّبِّ.
52. More lasting than a tattoo.	٥٢. أَثْبَتٌ من الْوَشْمِ.	(الضَّبُّ: نوع من الزحافات، "السلحية")
53. More foolish than a butterfly.	٥٣. أَجْهَلٌ من فَرَاشَةٍ.	٦٨. أَشَأْمٌ من حَفَارٍ.
54. More foolish than someone who chews his water.	٥٤. أَحْمَقٌ من مَاضِيَ الماءِ.	٦٩. أَشَهُرٌ من نَارٍ عَلَى عَلَمٍ.
55. More foolish than an ostrich.	٥٥. أَحْمَقٌ من نَعَامَةٍ.	٧٠. أَشَهُرٌ من الشَّمْسِ.
56. More foolish than a scorpion.	٥٦. أَجْهَلٌ من عَقْرَبٍ.	٧١. أَمْضى من الرِّيحِ.
57. More harmful than a wood worm.	٥٧. أَفْسَدٌ من السُّوسِ.	٧٢. أَفْنَدٌ من السَّهْمِ.
58. More harmful than locusts.		
59. More humble than a peg.		
60. More humble than a rug.		
61. More humble than a sole.		
62. More imitative than a monkey.		
63. More cutting than a sword.		
64. More piercing than death.		
65. More industrious than a honeybee.		
66. More industrious than a silkworm.		
67. More intricate than a lizard's tail.		
68. More jinxed than a grave digger.		
69. More noticeable than a fire on a mountaintop.		
70. More noticeable than the sun.		
71. More penetrating than the wind.		
72. More piercing than an arrow.		

73. More reckless than a butterfly.

٧٣. أطيشُ من فراشة.

74. More revealing than daylight.

٧٤. أئُمُّ من الصبح.

75. More secretive than the earth.

٧٥. أكْتُمُ من الأرض.

76. More sharp-sighted than a bat in the dark.

٧٦. أبْصُرُ من الوطواط في الليل.

77. More sharp-sighted than an eagle.

٧٧. أبْصُرُ من عُقَاب.
أبْصُرُ من نسر.

78. The more the wisdom, the less the words.

٧٨. إِذَا تَمَّ الْعُقْلُ نَقَصَ الْكَلَامُ.

79. More thirsty than a funnel.

٧٩. أَشَرَبُ من القمع.
أَعْطَشُ من قمع.

80. More thirsty than the sand.

٨٠. أَظْمَاءُ من رمل.
أَشَرَبُ من الرمل.
أَعْطَشُ من رمل.

81. More tumultuous than a torrential stream.

٨١. أَطْفَى من السيل.

82. More useful than a much-needed rain.

٨٢. أَجْدَى من الغيث في أوانه.

83. More vengeful than a camel.

٨٣. أَحْقَدُ من جمل.

84. More wakeful than a star.

٨٤. أَسْهَرُ من النجم.

85. More wicked than a snake.

٨٥. أَظْلَمُ من حَيَّة.

86. The most evil people are those who don't try to hide their evil from other people.

87. A mute's mother knows how to talk to the mutes.

88. My bow may be crooked, but my arrows never miss.

N

1. Necessities acknowledge no restrictions.

2. Necessity is the mother of invention.

3. Need drives a man to theft.

4. [Someone, or something,] needs less water than a lizard.

5. [Someone, or something,] needs less water than a snake.

6. [Someone] needs this less than a baldhead needs a comb.

7. Never lie to your God or to your friend.

٨٦. شُرُّ النَّاسِ مِنْ لَا يَبَالِي أَنْ يَرَاهُ النَّاسُ مُسِيَّاً.

٨٧. أُمُّ الْأَخْرَسْ تَعْرُفُ بِلُغَاتِ الْخَرْسَانِ.

٨٨. لِنْ حَالَتِ الْقَوْسُ فَسَهَمَ صَائِبٌ.

١. الضرورات تُبيح المحظورات.

٢. الحاجة تفتقر الحيلة.

٣. الخلة تدعى إلى السلة.
(الخلة: الحاجة، الفقر؛
السلة: السرقة)

٤. أروى من ضب.
(الضب: نوع من
الزحافات، "السلحية")

٥. أروى من حية.

٦. أَغْنَى عَنِ الشَّيْءِ مِنَ الْأَقْرَعِ عَنِ الْمُشَطِ.

٧. رَبَّكَ وَصَاحِبَكَ لَا تَكْذِبُ عَلَيْهِما.

٨. The night is short for those who are sound asleep.
٨. ما أقصى الليل على الرائد.

٩. No action can ever be blamed, if it was preceded by a proper warning.
٩. أغدر من أغدر.

١٠. No deal is as profitable as a good deed.
١٠. لا تجارة كالعمل الصالح.

١١. No drug can ever erase the mark of time.
١١. وهل يصلح العطار ما أفسد الدهر!

١٢. No guilt after repentance.
١٢. لا جرم بعد التدama.

١٣. No matter how hard you polish it, copper will always remain copper.
١٣. شوف النحاس يظهر النحاس.
(شاف الشيء: صقله وجلده)

١٤. No need or desire is worth the pain of fire.
١٤. لا خير في أرب القاك في لهب.
(الأرب: المأرب، الغاية)

١٥. No property will ever be lost, if its rightful owner doesn't give up.
١٥. لا يضيع حق وراءه طالب.

١٦. No reproach after death.
١٦. لا عتاب بعد الموت.

١٧. Not all we know can be divulged.
١٧. ما كل ما يعلم يُقال.

١٨. Not answering a foolish man is an answer in itself.
١٨. ترك الجواب على الجاهل جواب.

١٩. Not every archer hits the mark.
١٩. ما كل رامي غرض يُصيّب.

٢٠. Not every black thing is a date.
٢٠. ما كل سوداء تمرة.

٢١. Not every thunderbolt brings rain.
(البارقة: سحابة ذات برق)

٢٢. Not every question has a reply.
٢٢. ما كل قول له جواب.

٢٣. Not every week spot is vulnerable.
٢٤. لا في العير ولا في التفير.
(العيير: قافلة الحمير؛ التفير: مجموعة من الناس)

٢٥. Not only did they eat my dates, but they also threw the pits at me.
٢٥. يأكل التمر وأرجم بالنووى.

٠

١. Of all the herds you see around, not a single camel belongs to me.
١. لا ناقة لي في هذا ولا جمل.

٢. Oil kneaded in dough is never lost.
٢. الزيت في العجين لا يضيع.

٣. Older than an eagle.
٣. أعمى من نسر.

٤. Older than a lizard.
٤. أحيا من ضَبَّ
(الضَبَّ: "السلحفاة")

5. Older than a serpent.
6. On the day of examination, one faces praise or humiliation.
7. Once he was an anvil, now he became a hammer.
8. [Nothing can be done] once the saddle straps slip down the horse's belly.
9. One catches the fish, but another eats it.
10. One disaster is still better than two.
11. One never tires of talking about the things one loves.
12. One is always dazzled by the things that happen fast.
13. One water wheel wouldn't roil a sea.
14. Only a fool would knock his head against a rock.
15. Only after you have galloped with it will you know whether you had mounted a thoroughbred or a hee-haw.

٥. أَعْمَرْ مِنْ حَيَّةً.
٦. عِنْدَ الْامْتِحَانِ يُكْرَمُ الْمُرْءُ أَوْ يُهَانُ.
٧. كَانَ سَنْدَانًا فَصَارَ مَطْرَقًا.
٨. بَلَغَ الْحِزَامُ الطَّبِيَّيْنِ.
جَاؤَ الْحِزَامُ الطَّبِيَّيْنِ.
(الطَّبِيَّيْنِ : حَلْمَةٌ ضَرَعُ النَّاقَةِ،
وَهِيَ بَعِيْدَةٌ تَامَّاً عَنْ مَرْبَطِ
حِزَامِ السُّرْجِ)
٩. هَذَا يَصِيدُ وَهَذَا يَأْكُلُ
السَّمْكَةَ.
١٠. وَيْلٌ أَهُونُ مِنْ وَيْلَيْنِ.
١١. مِنْ أَحَبَّ شَيْئَنَا أَكْثَرُ مِنْ
ذِكْرِهِ.
١٢. النَّفْسُ مُولَعَةٌ بِحَبْبِ الْعَاجِلِ.
١٢. سَاقِيَّةٌ لَا تَعْكُرُ بَحْرًا.
١٤. أَحْمَقُ مِنْ نَاطِحِ الصَّخْرِ.
١٥. سُوفَ تَرَى إِذَا انْجَلَى
الْغَبَارُ، أَفْرَسَ تَحْتَكَ أَمْ
حِمَارًا.

16. Only an evil person would take pleasure in the mishaps of others.
17. Only evil repels evil.
18. Only foolish people take advantage of gentle and obliging people.
19. Only iron can split iron.
20. Only iron defeats iron.
21. Only unskilled people do things in haste.
22. Only when you yourself scratch the spot that itches will you ever get real relief.
23. Oppose and you'll be noticed.
24. Oysters may give other things beside pearls.

P

١. الصَّبْرُ حِيلَةٌ مِنْ لَا حِيلَةٍ لَهُ.
٢. دَوَاءُ الدَّهْرِ الصَّبْرُ عَلَيْهِ.
٣. الشَّمَاتَةُ لَؤْمٌ.
٤. الشُّرُّ لِلشَّرِّ خُلُقٌ.
٥. الْحَلَيمُ مَطِيَّةُ الْجَهُولِ.
٦. لَنْ الْحَدِيدَ بِالْحَدِيدِ يُفْلَحُ.
٧. لَا يَفْلُحُ الْحَدِيدُ إِلَّا الْحَدِيدُ.
٨. الْعَجْلَةُ فُرْصَةُ الْعَجَزَةِ.
٩. مَا حَكَّ جَلْدَكَ مِثْلُ ظِفْرِكَ.
١٠. خَالِفْ تُذَكَّرُ.
خَالِفْ تُعْرَفُ.
١١. قَدْ يَخْرُجُ مِنَ الصَّدْفِ غَيْرُ الدُّرِّ.

3. Patience is the key to relief.

٢. الصبر مفتاح الفرج.

4. Paying attention to obscenity is an obscene act in itself.

٤. تأمل العيب عيب.

5. People always follow a winner.

٥. الناس أتباع من غالب.

6. People always stumble into the pitfalls they dig for others.

٦. من حفر حفرة وقع فيها.

7. People are enemies of the things they don't know.

٧. الناس أعداء ما جهلو.

8. People don't lack strength when they work together.

٨. لا يعجز القوم اذا تعاونوا.

9. Persistence sometimes helps, but it also sometimes harms.

٩. ومن اللجاجة ما يضر وينفع.

10. A pig's skin cannot be tanned.

١٠. جلد الخنزير لا يندفع.

11. Pleasing everybody is an unreachable aim.

١١. رضا الناس غاية لا تدرك.

12. Pour water on your embers when they become too hot.

١٢. هرق على جمرك.
(هرق الماء، او هرق
الماء : صب الماء)

13. Prettier than a peacock.

١٣. أحسن من الطاووس.

R

1. A race is decided at the finish line.

١. عند الغاية يُعرف السبق.

2. A rage begins with frenzy and ends with remorse.

٢. أول الغضب جنون وأخره ندم.

3. Rain heals what hail ruins.

٣. أصلح غيث ما أفسد البرد.

4. Rarer than a rooster's egg.

٤. كبيضة الديك.
كانت بيضة الديك.

5. Rarer than a white-footed crow.

٥. أغز من الغراب الأعم.
(أعم: به بياض وسود)

6. The rays of the sun cannot be hidden, and the light of truth cannot be obscured.

٦. شاعر الشمس لا يُخفى ونور الحق لا يُطفى.

7. Read the signs of coming events!

٧. خذ الأمر بقوابله.
(قوابل الأمور: اوائل الأمور)

8. A real healer must be able to heal himself.

٨. يا طبيب طب نفسك.

9. Reason is man's best adviser.

٩. العقل وزير ناصح.

10. Rebuking your friends is much better than giving up on them.

١٠. مُعاقبة الإخوان خير من فقد هم.

11. Refusing everybody pleases everybody.

١١. منع الجميع أرضي الجميع.

12. Regretting your silence is better than regretting your words.

13. Remoter than a star.

14. Rewards should match the deeds.

15. [Someone] rises earlier than a crow.

16. [Someone went so fast, as if he were] riding on the wings of an ostrich.

17. Roses come from thorny bushes.

18. Ruined is the man who seeks help from an evil man.

S

1. A sage's supposition is better than a fool's certitude.

2. Saying "If I had done this," or "If I had done that," will never be able to change the past.

3. A scorpion stings then shrieks for help.

١٢. الندم على السكوت خير من الندم على القول.

١٢. أثني من الكوكب.

١٤. الجزاء من جنس العمل.

١٥. أبكر من غراب.

١٦. ركب جناحي النعامة.

١٧. من الشوكة تخرج الوردة.

١٨. العديم من احتاج الى لئيم.

١. ظن العاقل خير من يقين الجاهل.

٢. هل يُغْنِي من الحدثان ليت!

٢. تلذغ العقرب وتصيء:
(يصيء، يصويء،
يتصوّق، يزقرق،
يصرصرا)

4. A scout doesn't lie to his own people.

5. Should one hope for rain when there are no clouds in the sky?

6. Shyer than an ostrich.

7. Sift people and people will sieve you.

8. Silence may sometimes be the proper answer.

9. Silence is always better when you can't find the right words.

10. Silence is the brother of consent.

11. Similar to each other as if they were two dates.

12. Simple events sometimes lead to serious events.

13. A simple demand may sometimes lead to war.

14. A single cadaver cannot befoul the whole sea.

15. A single glance is sometimes more eloquent than many words.

16. [Someone was so restless, as if he were] sitting on smoldering coal.

٤. الرائد لا يكذب اهله.

٥. هل يُرجى مطر بغیر سحاب!

٦. انفر من نعامة.

٧. من غربل الناس نخلوه.

٨. ربما كان السكوت جواباً.

٩. عي صامت خير من عي ناطق.
(العي: العجز)

١٠. السكوت أخو الرضا.

١١. إنه لأشبّه به من التمرة بالتمرة.

١٢. ويحدث من بعض الأمور.

١٢. رب طلب جر الى حرب.

١٤. جينفة لا تُعكر بحراً.

١٥. رب طرف أنسح من لسان.

١٦. أحمر من الجمر.
على أحمر من الجمر.

١٧. A slave is the man who has no slaves.

١٧. العَبْدُ مِنْ لَا عَبْدَ لَهُ.

١٨. A slave must be beaten to get his attention, but a freeman needs nothing more than a hint.

١٨. العَبْدُ يُقْرَعُ بِالعَصَمِ وَالْحَرْ
تَكْفِيهِ الإِشَارَةُ.

١٩. A slip of the foot is less harmful than a slip of the tongue.

١٩. عَثْرَةُ الْقَدْمِ أَسْلَمُ مِنْ عَثْرَةِ
اللِّسَانِ.

٢٠. Small pebbles are parts of big mountains.

٢٠. الْحَصَّاءُ مِنَ الْجَبَلِ.

٢١. A snake charmer is never safe from bites.

٢١. الْحَوَّا يَلَا يَنْجُو مِنَ الْحَيَّاتِ.

٢٢. Socialize like brothers, but do business like foreigners.

٢٢. تَعَاشُرُوا كَالْإِخْوَانِ وَتَعَامِلُوا
كَالْجَنَاسِ.

٢٣. Soft words but harsh deeds.

٢٢. كَلَامٌ لَيْنٌ وَظُلْمٌ بَيْنٌ.

٢٤. Solitude is better than an evil companion.

٢٤. الْوَحْدَةُ خَيْرٌ مِنْ جَلِيسِ
السُّوءِ.

٢٥. Some dead people are not worth the tears we shed on them.

٢٥. هَذَا الْمَيْتُ لَا يَسَاوِي هَذَا

الْبَكَاءَ.

٢٦. Some diseases may make the body stronger.

٢٦. وَرُبُّمَا صَحَّتِ الْأَجْسَامُ
بِالْعَلَلِ.

٢٧. Some eloquent words work like magic.

٢٧. إِنَّ مِنَ الْبَيَانِ لَسْحَراً.

٢٨. Some evil is less evil than others.

٢٨. بَعْضُ الشَّرِّ أَهُونُ مِنْ بَعْضٍ.

٢٩. Some eyes say more than tongues.

٢٩. رَبُّ عَيْنٍ أَمْتُ مِنْ لِسَانٍ.

٣٠. Some friends are closer than real brothers.

٣١. Some fulfilled wishes cause a person's downfall.

٣٢. Some gladness easily turns into sadness.

٣٣. Some hearts have eyes.

٣٤. Some kinds of liberation are much worse than slavery.

٣٥. Someone must have drawn all this milk.

٣٦. Some silence is more eloquent than words.

٣٧. Some swords inspire fear, even when they remain in their sheaths.

٣٨. Some words are mightier than hard blows.

٣٩. Some words vanish in thin air.

٤٠. The sovereignty of knowledge will always prevail.

٤١. [It] sticks harder than ticks.

٤٢. Support your brother, even if only with words.

٤٣. Swifter than an arrow.

٤٤. رَبُّ أَخٍ لَمْ تَلِدْهُ وَالدَّةُ.

٤٥. رَبُّ أُمَّنَيَّةٍ جَلَبَتْ مَنَيَّةً.

٤٦. رَبُّ فَرَحَةٍ تَعُودُ تَرَحَّةً.
(الترح: الحزن)

٤٧. فِي بَعْضِ الْقُلُوبِ عَيْنُونَ.

٤٨. رَبُّ عِنْقٍ شَرِّيْ مِنْ رِيقٍ.

٤٩. لَكُلَّ دَرَّ حَالِبٌ.

٥٠. رَبُّ سُكُوتٍ أَبْلَغُ مِنْ كَلَامٍ.

٥١. قَدْ يُتُوقَّى السَّيْفُ وَهُوَ
مَغْمُدٌ.

٥٢. رَبُّ قُولٍ أَشَدُّ مِنْ صَوْلٍ.
(الصَّوْلُ: الْهَجُومُ)

٥٣. وَبَعْضُ الْقَوْلِ يَذْهَبُ فِي
الرِّيَاحِ.

٥٤. لَيْسَ لِسْلَطَانِ الْعِلْمِ ذَوَالِ.

٥٥. أَعْلَقَ مِنْ قُرَادٍ.

٥٦. أَعْنَ أَخَالَكَ وَلَوْ بِالصَّوْتِ.

٥٧. أَمْرَقُ مِنْ سَهْمٍ.

- Take part or depart.
- [A confusion like the one that happens, when] tamed and untamed camels get together.
- Tamer than a dog.
- Tamer than the doves of Mekka.
- There are four kinds of men: A man who knows and knows that he knows; he is a learned man, follow him. A man who knows, but doesn't know that he knows; he is asleep, awake him. A man who doesn't know and knows that he doesn't know; he needs guidance, teach him. And a man who doesn't know and doesn't know that he doesn't know; he is a fool, renounce him.
- There are two kinds of days: days you win, and days you lose.
- There is always enough room on this earth for free, honorable people.

- إن لم يكن وفاق فراق.
- اختلط المرعى بالهمل.
(المرعى: الإبل التي لها راع؛ الهمل: الإبل التي لا راع لها)
- ألف من كلب.
- ألف من حمام مكة.
- الرجال اربعة: رجل يدرى ويدري انه يدرى فذلك عالم فاتبعوه. ورجل يدرى ولا يدرى انه يدرى فذلك نائم فايقظوه. ورجل لا يدرى ويدري انه لا يدرى فذلك مسترشد فلعلموه. ورجل لا يدرى ولا يدرى انه لا يدرى فذلك جاهل فارضوه.
- الدهر يومان، يوم لك ويوم عليك.
يوم لنا ويوم علينا.
- وفي الأرض للحرّ الكريم منادٍ.
(المندوحة، المندوح:
السعة، الفسحة)

- There is always more room behind you.
- There is an eavesdropper for every word uttered loosely.
- There is a proper reward for every deed, and a fitting reply to every question.
- There is a reply for every speech.
- There is enough room in your chest for all your secrets.
- There is no good deed like helping a man in need.
- They defeated the high-minded, but the base-minded defeated them.
- Things always go back to where they came from.
- Things always become clearer, after the dust settles down.
- Things you store in pots will be consumed, but things you keep in your heart will stay forever.
- Thinner than the shadow of a lance.
- This cake is made from that dough.
- وراءك أوسع لك.
- لكل ساقطة لاقطة.
- لكل عمل ثواب ولكل كلام جواب.
- لكل خطاب جواب.
- صدرك أوسع لسررك.
- أفضل المعروف إغاثة الملهوف.
- يغلبن الكرام ويغلبهم اللئام.
- عاد الأمر إلى نصابه.
- سوف ترى اذا انجلى الغبار.
- يفني ما في التدور ويبقى ما في الصدور.
- أضيق من ظلّ الرمح.
- هذا الكعك من ذاك العجين.

20. This will take place when the crow's feathers turn white.

٢٠. لا يكون ذلك حتى يشيب الغراب.

21. A thorny bush doesn't yield any grapes.

٢١. لا يُثمر الشوكُ العِنْبَ.

22. Those who believe in the goodness of others are liable to get in trouble.

٢٢. حُسْنُ الظنْ وَرَطْهَةً.

23. Those who have no followers also have no opinion.

٢٢. لا رأيٌ لِمَنْ لَا يُطَاعُ.

24. Throw the stone back at those who threw it at you.

٢٤. رُدَّ الْحَجْرُ مِنْ حِيثِ جَاءَكَ.

25. Time is the best of all mentors.

٢٥. نِعَمَ الْمُؤَدِّبُ الدَّهْرُ.

26. Tinier than a mosquito's brain.

٢٦. أَعْرُّ مِنْ مُخَّ الْبَعْوضِ.

27. A tit for tat, and he who starts will be the villain.

٢٧. هَذِهِ بِتْلُكُ وَالْبَادِيَ أَظْلَمُ.

28. Today's egg is better than tomorrow's chicken.

٢٨. بِيَضْهُ الْيَوْمُ خَيْرٌ مِنْ دَجَاجَةِ الْغَدِ.

29. Today's work shouldn't be delayed until tomorrow.

٢٩. لَا تُؤْخِرْ عَمَلَ الْيَوْمِ لِنَدِ.

30. Toil for me and I'll toil for you.

٣٠. إِكْدَحْ لِي أَكْدَحْ لَكَ.

31. To hurry is to err.

٣١. الْخَطَأُ زَادَ الْعَجُولَ.

32. [Because this day is almost over,] tomorrow, for the hopeful, is close at hand.

٢٢. [فَإِنْ يَكُنْ صَدْرُ هَذَا الْيَوْمِ وَلِيٌّ] فَإِنَّ غَدَّاً لَنَاظِرِهِ قَرِيبٌ.

33. Too many helmsmen wrecked the ship.

٢٢. مِنْ كَثْرَةِ الْمَلاَحِينَ غَرَقَتِ السَّفِينَةُ.

34. Too much jesting breeds ill will.

٢٤. الْمَزَاحُ لَقَاحُ الْضَّفَائِنَ.

35. To their mothers people run, whenever they are hurting.

٢٥. إِلَى أُمَّهُ يَلْهَفُ الْلَّهَفَانُ.

36. To panic in face of a calamity, always makes it twice as bad.

٢٦. الْجَزَعُ عِنْدَ الْمُصِيبَةِ مُصِيبَةٌ أُخْرَى.

37. To save myself, I lost my nose.

٢٧. شَفَيْتُ نَفْسِي وَجَدْعَتُ أَنْفِي.

38. To scare away a vicious dog, another vicious dog is needed.

٢٨. يُعَدُّ لِكَلْبِ السَّوْءِ كَلْبٌ يَعَادِلُهُ.

39. Truth is always covered by bubbles.

٢٩. تَحْتَ الرَّغْوَةِ الْصَّرِيحُ.

40. Truth gets on people's nerves.

٤٠. الْحَقُّ مَغَبَّةٌ.

41. Truth glitters and falsehood falters.

٤١. الْحَقُّ أَبْلَجُ وَالْبَاطِلُ لَجْلَجُ.

42. Truth is the best than can be said.

٤٢. الْحَقُّ خَيْرٌ مَا يُقَالُ.

43. A truth that displeases is better than a lie that pleases.

٤٢. حَقٌّ يَضِرُّ خَيْرٌ مِنْ بَاطِلٍ يُسْرٌ.

44. Turning back is always safer.

٤٤. الْعَوْدُ أَحْمَدٌ.

45. Two blades will never fit in a single sheath.

٤٥. لَا يُجْمِعُ سِيفَانٌ فِي غِمَدٍ.

U

1. Upholding the truth is a noble deed.

١. نُصْرَةُ الْحَقِّ شَرْفٌ.

2. Useful possessions are the best possessions.

٢. خَيْرُ الْمَالِ مَا نَفْعُ.
خَيْرُ مَالِكَ مَا نَفْعُكَ.

W

1. War is a monster.

١. الْحَرْبُ غَشُومٌ.

2. War is deception.

٢. الْحَرْبُ خُدُعَةٌ.

3. War seems harmless to the onlookers.

٢. مَا أَهْوَنَ الْحَرْبَ عَلَى النَّاظَارَةِ.

4. A watchful dog is better than a sleepy lion.

٤. كَلْبٌ عَسْنٌ خَيْرٌ مِنْ أَسْدٍ
رَبْضِيٍّ.
(عَسْنٌ: طافَ بِاللَّيْلِ بِغَرْضِ
الحراسة)

5. We become blind and deaf, when it comes to what we love.

٥. حُبُكَ الشَّيْءَ يُعْمِي وَيُمْبِي.

6. We can only give what we have received.

٦. وَإِنَّمَا نُعْطِيَ الَّذِي أُعْطِيْنَا.

7. We drink tonight, and tomorrow we fight.

٧. الْيَوْمَ خَمْرٌ وَغَدَّاً أَمْرٌ.

8. The well lasts longer than the bucket and the rope.

٨. الْبَئْرُ أَبْقَى مِنَ الرِّشَاءِ.
(الرِّشَاءُ: جَبَ الدَّلْوَ)

9. What good are swords, if we don't have men!

٩. مَا أَنْفَعَ السَّيْفِ بِلَا رِجَالٍ.

10. What is good for the liver, is bad for the spleen.

١٠. مَا يَنْفَعُ الْكَبْدَ يَضُرُّ
الْطَّحَالَ.

11. What can a marksman do, when his bow suddenly ruptures.

١١. مَا حِيلَةُ الرَّامِيِّ إِذَا انْقَطَعَ
الْوَتَرُ.

12. What will happen, will happen on time.

١٢. كُلَّ أَتٍ قَرِيبٌ.

13. When a camel is about to die, it goes in circles around the well.

١٢. إِذَا جَاءَ أَجْلُ الْبَعِيرِ حَامٌ
حَوْلَ الْبَئْرِ.

14. When a jackass went to get itself a pair of horns, it came back without its ears.

١٤. ذَهَبَ الْحَمَارُ يَطْلَبُ قَرْنَيْنِ
فَعَادَ مَصْلُومًا الْأَذْنَيْنِ.
(صلَمُ الشَّيْءِ: قَطْعَهُ مِنْ
أَصْلِهِ)

15. When a learned man errs, many men will follow and err.

١٥. إِذَا ذَلَّ الْعَالَمُ ذَلَّ بِزَلَّتِهِ
عَالَمٌ.

16. When a man's predestined time arrives, his eyesight will be restricted.

١٦. إِذَا جَاءَ الْقَدْرُ غَشِيَ الْبَصَرُ.

17. When an inquisitive man was thrown into Hell, he asked why the firewood was not dry enough.

١٧. دَخَلَ فُخُولِيَّ النَّارَ فَقَالَ
الْحَطَبُ رَطِبٌ.

18. When a rip becomes too wide, it is too late to patch it up.

١٨. إِتَّسَعَ الْخَرْقُ عَلَى الرَّاتِقِ.

19. When facing a common disaster, people forget their hate and anger.

١٩. عند الشدائـد تذهب الأحقاد.

20. When God wants to destroy an ant, He gives it wings and lets it fly.

٢٠. إذا أراد الله هلاك نملة انبت لها جناحين.

21. When he is straight, he is like a knife, and when he bends, he becomes a sickle.

٢١. إن استوى فسـكـين وإن اعوج فـمـنـجـلـ.

22. [I taught him how to hold the bow, and] when his hands became steady, he made me his first mark.

٢٢. [أعـلـمـ الرـمـاـيـةـ كـلـ يـوـمـ] فـلـمـاـ اسـتـدـ سـاعـدـ رـمـانـيـ.
(استـدـ: استـقامـ)

23. When in love, advice has no effect.

٢٢. ليس في الحب مشورة.

24. When it faces an isolated man, a wolf suddenly becomes a lion.

٢٤. الذئـبـ خـالـيـاـ أـسـدـ.

25. When it is time for us to go, the cosmic space will close on us.

٢٥. إذا حـانـ القـضـاءـ ضـاقـ الفـضـاءـ.

26. [This will happen] when the lizard and the whale become friends.

٢٦. حتى يـؤـلـفـ بـيـنـ الضـبـ والـنـوـنـ.

(الضـبـ: "الـسـحلـيـةـ"؛
الـنـوـنـ: "الـحـوتـ")

27. [This will happen] when the lizard goes to drink.

٢٧. حتى يـرـدـ الضـبـ.
(وـرـدـ المـاءـ: صـارـ إـلـيـهـ؛
الـضـبـ: "الـسـحلـيـةـ")

28. 29. When the wind blows, it favors no ship.

٢٨. تـجـريـ الـرـيـاحـ بـمـاـ لـاـ تـشـهـيـ السـفـنـ.

29. When there is no other cure, searing must be done.

٣٠. When they bump against one another, the hornless ram will always lose.

٣١. When you betray, you become a prey.

٣٢. When you hear poorly, you answer poorly.

٣٣. When you plant a thornbush, don't ever expect grapes.

٣٤. When you renounce all your desires, you'll gain your total freedom.

٣٥. When on foot, all rides are welcome.

٣٦. When you talk much, you err much.

٣٧. When you wish, wish a lot.

٣٨. While his tongue was praying, his hand was slaying.

٣٩. While man is contemplating the universe, God is conducting its course.

٤٠. Whom you can't conquer, try to cajole.

٢٩. آخر الداء الكي.

٣٠. عند النطاح يُغلب الكبش
الأجم.
(الأجم: ليس له قرون)

٣١. من خان هان.

٣٢. أساءَ سمعاً فأساءَ إجابةً.

٣٣. من يزرع الشوك لا يحصد به العنبـاـ.

٣٤. من ترك الشهوات عاش حـرـماـ.

٣٥. من يمشـيـ يـرـضـ بـمـاـ رـكـبـ.

٣٦. أفرـطـ فـأـسـقـطـ.

٣٧. إذا تمنـيـتـ فـاسـتكـثـرـ.

٣٨. فـمـ يـسـبـ وـيـدـ تـذـبـحـ.

٣٩. الإنسـانـ بـالـتـفـكـيرـ وـالـلـهـ
بـالـتـدـبـيرـ.

٤٠. إذا لم تـفـلـبـ فـأـخـلـبـ.

41. Why do you keep blowing, when there is no fire!

42. Why would I want a sun that doesn't make me warm!

43. Wisdom is the purpose of every believer.

44. A wise man will never win, if he does battle with a fool.

45. The wisest of men appreciate the failings of other men.

46. Within the walls of his home, every grown-up becomes a child.

47. A wolf in sheep's clothing.

48. A woman's wisdom is her beauty, and a man's beauty is his wisdom.

49. Women are snares designed by the Devil.

50. [His] words are like honey, but [his] deeds are like daggers.

51. The worst disasters are the ones that make us laugh.

٤١. نفخَتْ في غير ضَرَمْ.

٤٢. ما لي بشمسٍ لا تدْقِنِي.

٤٣. الحِكْمَةُ ضَالَّةُ الْمُؤْمِنِ.

٤٤. لا يُنْتَصِفُ حَلِيمٌ مِنْ جَهْوَلٍ.

٤٥. أَعْقَلُ النَّاسَ أَعْذَرُهُمْ لِلنَّاسِ.

٤٦. كُلَّ آمْرِيٍّ فِي بَيْتِهِ صَبِّيٌّ.

٤٧. تَحْتَ جِلْدِ الْخَانِيْنِ قَلْبُ الْأَذْوَبِ.
(أَذْوَبٌ: جَمِيعُ ذَئْبَ)

٤٨. عَقْلُ الْمَرْأَةِ فِي جَمَالِهَا وَجَمَالُ الرَّجُلِ فِي عَقْلِهِ.

٤٩. إِنَّ النِّسَاءَ حِبَالُ الشَّيْطَانِ.

٥٠. كَلَامُ كَالْعَسْلِ وَفَعْلُ كَالْأَسْلِ.
(الْأَسْلُ: الرَّماحُ، السَّيْوِفُ)

٥١. شُرُّ الشَّدَائِدِ مَا يُضْحِكُ.

١. النَّشِيدُ مَعَ الْمَسَرَّةِ.

٢. تَحْفَظُ أَخَالَ الْأَنْ منْ نَفْسِهِ.

٣. إِنَّكَ تَضْرِبُ فِي حَدِيدٍ بَارِدٍ.

٤. إِنَّكَ لَا تَجْنِي مِنَ الشَّوْكِ الْعَنْبِ.

٥. مَا اسْتَرَرَ مِنْ قَادِ الْجَمَلِ.

٦. قَبْلِ الرِّمَاءِ ثُمَّ الْكَنَائِنِ.
(الْكَنَائِنُ جَمْعُ كَنَانَةٍ، وَهِيَ الْجَعْبَةُ الَّتِي تَحْفَظُ فِيهَا السَّهَامَ)

٧. مَا لَا يَصْلَحُ تَرْكُهُ أَصْلَحٌ.

٨. خُذْ مَا طَفَّ لَكَ.
(طَفَّ مِنْهُ: دَنَا مِنْهُ)

٩. لَا تُعْلَمُ الْيَتَمَ الْبَكَاءُ.

١٠. إِيَّاكَ أَعْنِي وَاسْمِعِي يَا جَارَةً.

١١. تُكْثِرُ الْحَزْ وَتُخْطِيُّ الْفَصْلِ.
(الْحَزُّ: الْقِطْعَ)

12. You may cut your own nose, while you're trying to protect it.

١٢. رَبَّ حَامٍ لَأَنْفِهِ وَهُوَ جَادِعٌ.

13. You owe your brother, exactly what he does owe you.

١٣. لَا خَيْكَ عَلَيْكَ مُثْلُ الذِّي لَكَ عَلَيْهِ.

14. You reached greener pastures, now you should dismount!

١٤. أَعْشَبْتَ فَانْزَلْ.

15. You reap what you sow.

١٥. كَمَا تَزْرَعْ تَحْصَدْ.

16. Your hand is a part of you, even if it is lame.

١٦. يَدُكَ مِنْكَ وَإِنْ كَانَ شَلَاءً.

17. Your informer and your enemy are one and the same.

١٧. الرَّاوِيَةُ أَحَدُ الشَّاتِمِينَ.

18. Your nose is a part of you, even if it has been disfigured.

١٨. مِنْكَ أَنْفُكَ وَإِنْ كَانَ أَجْدَعَ.

19. Your true brother is the one who tells you the truth.

١٩. أَخُوكَ مِنْ صَدَقَكَ.

20. You would really know how it tastes, only if you would choke on it.

٢٠. أَعْلَمُ بِهَا مِنْ غَصَّ بِهَا.
(غَصَّ بِالطَّعَامِ: تَوَقَّفَ الطَّعَامُ فِي حَلْقِهِ وَمَنَعَ مِنْ (التنفس)

من أقوال العرب وتشبيهاتهم الظرفية

OLD ARABIC SAYINGS,
SIMILES, AND METAPHORS

A Bilingual Edition
English / Arabic

Translated from the Arabic by
SAAD ELKHADEM

A compilation of some of the wisest proverbs and wittiest metaphors used by the Arabs over the years, and passed down from generation to generation.

Saad Elkhadem (Sa'd al-Khâdim) teaches German and comparative literature at the University of New Brunswick; he is the editor of *The International Fiction Review* and the general editor of *Authoritative Studies in World Literature*. Dr. Elkhadem has written a considerable number of novels, plays, and short stories, edited numerous scholarly books, and translated several works of literature.

OLD ARABIC SAYINGS, SIMILES, AND METAPHORS

OLD
ARABIC
SAYINGS
SIMILES &
METAPHORS

YORK PRESS

تشبيهات
العرب
القديمة